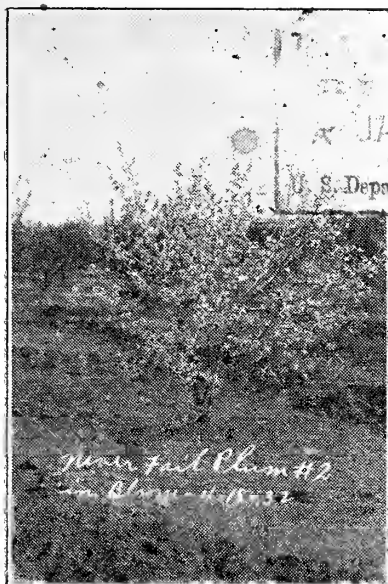


Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



See also page 101

HOW TO GROW FRUIT TREES

—in—

WEST TEXAS

—and—

NEW MEXICO

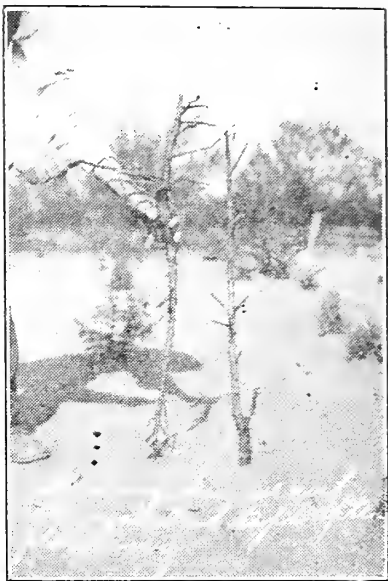


—by—

DALMONT NURSERY

112
Growers of Hardy Fruits Adapted to West
Texas and New Mexico

PLAINVIEW, - TEXAS



INTRODUCTORY

In presenting these instructions to my patrons and public in general, I will say that it is based upon a lifetime experience in West Texas and the Plains country. I would not assume to say that these instructions would be best suited to orchards in different climates to this. But I believe that they are good for all climates similar to West Texas, New Mexico and the Plains, where we have high winds, hot sunshine, and a limited amount of moisture. The fact that we have late frost, high winds and dry weather, makes it more difficult and expensive to grow trees.

HOW TO GROW FRUITS

While we think we have as good a soil for growing fruits as could be found anywhere, we have learned from experience, that we have the most adverse climatic conditions that could be found anywhere.

In planting an orchard, it is necessary to get trees that are adapted to the climate, which are hardy and late bloomers. Trees should be shaped to suit the climate. They should be headed low and shaped so that the sun never shines on the body of the tree nor on the soil that covers the roots, so far as this is possible. High pruning has caused the destruction of more fruit trees on the Plains than any other one thing.

PLANTING

The first thing to do is to turn your trees upside down and cut the roots back just enough to where they are sound and sappy. Making a cut that will be turned down after they are planted. (See illustration). Then place tree in hole, turning the best limbs and the natural bend of the tree to the southwest. Dig holes large enough to give roots their natural position in the ground. Fill the hole two thirds full of good loose dirt, then pour in plenty of water to settle the soil around the roots. After the water has soaked in, fill the hole full of loose dirt and tramp firmly. Hill up the tree as high as convenient and stake on three sides with straight sticks, tying them at the top.

PRUNING

The shaping up of a tree should commence at the time of planting. If you get trees that are already branched, leave your lowest limbs to the south and west, pruning the north and east sides 6 inches to one foot higher than the south and west sides. Always cut the limbs very close, taking out the natural rim that surrounds the base of the limb. This will keep them from either dying back or sprouting out again. Then cut the balance of the limbs back to stubs about one or two inches long, being careful to cut them at least $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch above the first bud on the south and west sides of the limb. The growth will naturally be inclined in that direction and help to protect the body of the tree from the high winds and hot sunshine. When you have finished cutting the limbs off, top your tree off to about $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, or any height desired. (See illustration on planting). If your trees are only one year old and have no limbs, you should shave off the buds close where you don't want a limb. Top them about the same as if they were branched.

You do not need to wait until spring to do your pruning. Neither do you need to wait until limbs are the size of a pencil, a hoe handle, or your leg to cut them off. Whenever you see a bud or limb starting where you don't want a limb, cut it off at once. Thus you will force the growth of the tree in the direction you want it to go.

HAIL, HARD WINDS AND HOT SUNSHINE

In shaping the tops of your trees, it is best to space the limbs in different positions around the body of the tree, having each limb a little higher than the last one. Do not cut the body of your tree short and have all the limbs come out the same height, as this will cause the tree to be forked. Forked trees often split when loaded with fruit in times of hard wind. In this way you not only keep the hot sunshine from blistering the bark of the tree, but also keep the hail from bruising the body. If your trees are branched low, the limbs will stop the force of the hail and if the limbs are bruised, you can cut them back, and in one year's time your tree will be as good as ever.

OLD AGE AND DISEASE

Trees do not die from old age. If your trees get large and begin to die, cut the tops back to stubs. (What I call de-horning them). Something similar to pruning grapes. This gives the tree new vitality and puts them back to bearing. When trees get too large they often suffer from want of moisture or plant food. This is especially true when trees are planted too close together. If your trees are suffering from disease, you should treat them for same, and eradicate the disease. We prepare and sell a tree paint especially for diseases above the ground. We also handle Paradi-chlorbenzene, a preparation to keep tree bores from working under the ground.

LOCATION AND PREPARATION OF SOIL

A high level piece of ground is best suited for an orchard if available. The soil is generally richer on level land than on rolling ground. It will also take up the water during hard rains much better. If your orchard could be placed near to lower land it would be that much the better. Cold air is heavier than hot air, therefore it settles to the low places and kills fruit in the valley before it does on a hill.

You should prepare your land as long before planting time as convenient, and deep plowing is advisable. It is best to check your land both ways when laying off your orchard. This can be done by laying off both ways with a plow, but the surest way is with wire. To do this, run a drop of solder at the distance you want your trees to be planted apart. Run the wire across both ends and mark the distance

apart for the rows. Then run the wire length ways and mark each place for the trees. If this is done properly, they will line up both ways.

IRRIGATION

Irrigation can be used to an advantage if used properly in real dry weather. If it is not used properly it does more harm than good. An orchard should never be flooded! Water should either be applied through tiling or ditches so as to let the moisture soak into the sub soil. The soil should be thoroughly cultivated about two days after each irrigation.

HOW TO CONTROL SAND

In West Texas, New Mexico, and the Plains we often have trouble in keeping the sand from blowing in the spring of the year. The best way I have found to control sand is to plant sudan grass along some time in July. When the frost kills the grass in winter, it will fall over and keep the sand from blowing next spring. The grass should be left until all danger of bad sand storms is over. Then it should be disced and cultivated well until next planting season. Peas would be good for this purpose if they did not dry up and blow away.

CULTURE OF GRAPES

The first thing to do is to get good healthy, well rooted plants that are adapted to the climate. Prepare the soil as long before planting time as convenient. Check your rows both ways. Many people plant their grapes too close. We recommend 6 by 12 feet as being a plenty close. If your moisture is very limited, it might be better to plant them 12 by 12 feet. Plant your grapes early, a little deeper than they were when dug. Cut them off to within about 3 inches above the top of the ground and pile dirt up to the top. They will come out in the spring and get used to the dry air as they grow. Put a small post by each vine until they are strong enough to stand alone. If trellis is preferred, use post and wire. After the vines are shaped up and are sufficiently large to carry a good crop of fruit, they should be cut back to within two buds of the last year's growth each year. We recommend early pruning for grapes. December would be a good time.

CULTURE OF BLACK AND DEW BERRIES

It is best to plant berries early in the season

and we would suggest that you plant them two feet one way and six the other. After they are planted, cut them off to within three inches above the ground. Pile loose dirt up to the top of the stubs. After they are through bearing each season, cut them off to within two or three inches above the ground. Cultivate often.

ROSES AND SHRUBS

It is also good practice to plant roses and many other shrubs early and cut the tops off and hill them up as you would berry vines.

CONCLUSION

The object of sending out these instructions is to let people know that we have fruit trees to sell, which we guarantee to bear as young and often as any on the Plains, West Texas, or New Mexico. We have some that we have originated ourselves. Consisting of Never Fail Plums, Sure Shot Peach, Portales Nectarine, Dalmont Hardy Cherry, Western Prune and the Wonder Plum. These have bore the last four years in succession. Three years of this time were the worst on fruit I have ever seen. A few cents is a very small consideration in price between a good tree that is sure to be a success and one that is a failure after caring for it until old enough to bear.

DALMONT SPECIALS

Never Fail and Wonder Plums	\$1.00 Each
Sure Shot Peach	\$1.00 Each
Portales Nectarine	\$1.00 Each
Western Prune	\$1.00 Each

Any of the above listed varieties at \$9.00 per dozen.

Dalmont Tree Paint.....\$1.50 Per Gallon

One gallon should paint about 100 or 150 trees.

Paradichlorbenzene.....\$1.50 Per 5-lb. Container
\$25.00 Per 100-Pounds

All solutions F. O. B. Dalmont Nursery

We also carry all other leading varieties of fruit trees.

If these instructions have been a help to you in any way, we are well pleased and hope to hear from you soon.

DALMONT NURSERY
L. N. DALMONT, Owner

We have learned that seeds grown from native trees produce hardier trees than the parent trees, and in this way we can keep improving on the hardiness of our trees. We have an orchard, grow our own seedlings and bud and graft them from scions of tested trees—AND IN THIS WAY PRODUCE REAL NATIVE TREES FREE FROM DISEASE.

